GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:210
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
IMPROVING HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO analysis on the performance of the health care system across the World has placed India in poor position;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the health care system in the country has deteriorated during the past few years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the health care system in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (e): According to the World Health Survey, 2003 relating to Health System Performance Assessment in India published by WHO in 2006, the health system performance in India in terms of health outcome indicators have shown tremendous improvement over the last 50 years.

The survey also points out that there are wide regional differences that exist within the country accounting for variations in the health indicators. The Report also mentions the efforts made by the Government to improve health of people in rural and urban areas and the National Health Policy framed in 2002 for achieving an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country.

The Union Government has been effecting course correction in health policy planning and implementation to achieve the targets set in National Health Policy 2002. Though health care infrastructure has been strengthened and a wide rage of services are provided besides implementation of a number of national disease control programmes, equity aspects, differences amongst States in health indicators, access to public healthcare facilities, high out of pocket expenses are all issues of concern. The demand for health care has also been on the increase due to education, urbanization and health seeking behaviour.

Taking a holistic view of the health services and requirements, the National Rural Health Mission was launched in April, 2005 to architecturally correct the healthcare delivery system. The Mission aims to provide affordable, accessible and quality healthcare which is accountable and at the same time responsive to the needs of the people, reduction of child and maternal deaths as well as population stabilization, gender and demographic balance is also aims at mainstreaming AYUSH and effectively integrate health concerns through decentralized management at the district and levels below with the determinants of health like sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, safe drinking water etc. In the process the Mission would help to achieve the goals set under National Health Policy 2002 and the MDGs as also addressed inter and intra state disparities paving the way for an improved healthcare system.